

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

November 24, 2014

Michael Collins
Program Director
United States Small Business
Administration
409 3rd St. SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Mr. Collins:

As Senator from Indiana, I consider economic development and job creation to be critical components of vibrant communities. Business Ownership Initiative (BOI), a non-profit technical assistance organization founded in 1997 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana, seeks to help those living with heightened social and economic pressures support themselves through self-employment. I value their efforts and encourage the Small Business Administration to favorably consider their application to become an SBA Microlending Intermediary.

Serving nine central Indiana counties, BOI administers a program developed by the Indy Chamber which focuses on coaching, training and providing microloans for small business people and entrepreneurs facing limited resources and unique challenges. Their client base includes those living in poverty, ex-offenders, immigrants, female heads of household and individuals with disabilities.

The need for the services BOI provides has steadily increased over the years. In 2014, BOI has extended \$672,000 in microloans to date, and another \$400,000 in applications is moving through the pipeline. There clearly is a need for additional access to capital for hard-working Hoosiers. The SBA Microlending Intermediary designation and associated financing will be used to support the development of those seeking to improve their lives through hard work, initiative and energy. Additionally, it has the potential to spur additional economic growth in the neighborhoods where BOI's clients work and live.

As a former small business owner, I request that you give BOI's application to become a SBA Microlending Intermediary your most thoughtful consideration, in a manner consistent with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being informed when a decision about this grant is announced. Any questions and announcements can be directed to my office to Marianne Black who can be reached by email at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov, or by telephone at (317) 226.5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator